

Serial No. 10/725,325

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 18-19, 22-23 and 25-27 are now pending herein. Claim 24 has been canceled, and the subject matter thereof incorporated into independent Claim 18.

Objection to Claims 19, 25 and 27 for Informalities

Claims 19, 25 and 27 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 19, line 3, "the phrase 'said epitaxial region' has no antecedent basis". Claim 25, line 17, "the phrase '(c)' should change to '(d)'". Claim 27, line 2, "the phrase 'said semiconductor substrate' has no antecedent basis".

The objections are believed to be overcome in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims. The phrase "said epitaxial region" in Claim 19 has been changed to "said epitaxial layer". Claim 25 has been amended to correctly recite "(d)" rather than two step (c)'s, and the phrase "said semiconductor substrate" in Claim 27 has been changed to "said substrate".

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indication in the Office Action that independent Claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection set forth in this Office Action and that dependent Claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

102(b) Rejection of Claims 18, 19, 22, 23 and 26 and 103(a) Rejection of Claim 27

Claims 18, 19, 22, 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,214). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Bulucca et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,886,931, hereinafter "Bulucca").

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In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, each of these rejections is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 24. Thus, the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is believed to be overcome.

It is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 18, as amended herein, is now in condition for allowance. Claims 19-23 and 26-27 are dependent on, and contain all the limitations of Claim 18, and as such are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reason as Claim 18.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

CONCLUSION


Applicants submit that Claims 18-19, 22-23 and 25-27 are presently in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

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The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

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Respectfully submitted,


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